

Agency Overview

The Idaho Industrial Commission administers the Idaho Workers' Compensation Law (Title 72, Chapters 1-8, Idaho Code). The Industrial Commission is statutorily required to settle disputed workers' compensation cases, serve as an appeals court for the Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor's unemployment claims, maintain files on all Idaho workers' compensation claims, ensure that all employees subject to Title 72 are insured, provide vocational rehabilitation services to injured workers, and administer the Idaho Crime Victims Compensation Program.

The Commission is comprised of a three-member panel, appointed by the governor. One member must be an Idaho licensed attorney, one must represent employers and one must represent workers. The Commission is assisted in administering its day-to-day activities by a director who serves at a level between the Commissioners and staff to coordinate the activities of the four functional divisions of the agency: Compensation, Adjudication, Rehabilitation and Crime Victims.

The Industrial Commission is a relatively small agency with approximately 138 employees statewide. The main office is in Boise and there are an additional ten field offices throughout the state. The field offices house staff from the Rehabilitation Division and Employer Compliance's Employer Investigators.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Adjudication Division – ensures the timely processing and resolution of disputed workers' compensation claims and medical fee disputes; provides an alternative method of resolving disputes through mediation; provides judicial review of unemployment insurance appeals from the Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor; hears appeals from determinations made by the Crime Victims Compensation Program. (Title 72, Chapters 1-8, Idaho Code)

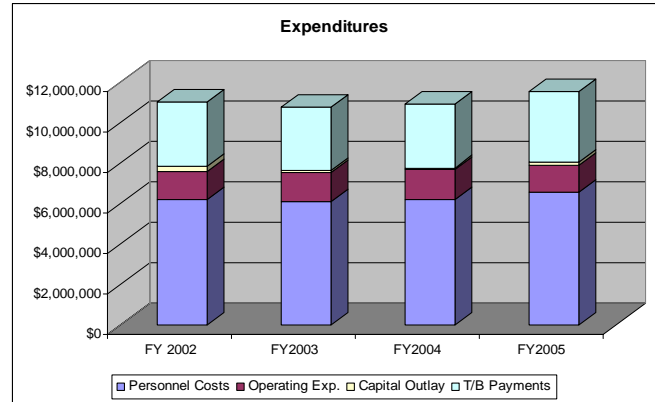
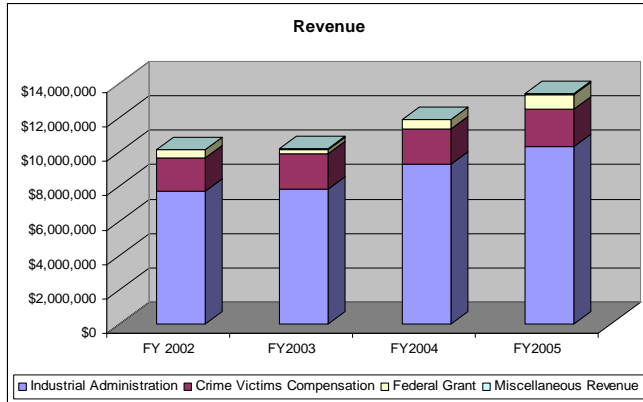
Compensation Division – evaluates insurance carriers requesting to write workers' compensation insurance and employers requesting to become self-insured; ensures adequate securities are on deposit with the State Treasurers Office to cover outstanding awards; enforces the insurance requirements of the Idaho Workers' Compensation Law; and ensures that workers' compensation benefits are paid properly and timely. (Title 72, Chapters 1-8, Idaho Code)

Rehabilitation Division – assists injured workers to maximize their medical recovery while facilitating an early return to employment, which is as close to possible to the worker's pre-injury wage and status. (Title 72, Chapters 1-8, Idaho Code)

Crime Victims Compensation Program – provides financial assistance to victims of crime for health care and related expenses that are incurred as a result of criminally injurious conduct. The program also pays for sexual assault forensic examinations. (Title 72, Chapter 10, Idaho Code)

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Industrial Administration	\$7,718,900	\$7,863,000	\$9,282,200	\$10,328,100
Crime Victims Compensation	\$1,947,700	\$2,029,100	\$2,082,600	\$2,156,700
Federal Grant	\$451,300	\$272,600	\$499,300	\$866,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$22,800	\$24,600	\$28,500	\$30,200
Total	\$10,140,700	\$10,189,300	\$11,892,600	\$13,381,500
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$6,186,500	\$6,089,100	\$6,187,900	\$6,574,000
Operating Expenditures	\$1,424,600	\$1,440,200	\$1,490,900	\$1,323,300
Capital Outlay	\$232,500	\$135,100	\$93,100	\$137,700
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$3,174,100	\$3,106,400	\$3,148,400	\$3,492,400
Total	\$11,017,700	\$10,770,800	\$10,920,300	\$11,527,400



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
COMPENSATION				
• Workers' Compensation Claims Filed	46,340	44,606	42,352	42,344
○ Medical Only	38,938	37,169	35,748	35,796
○ Time-Loss	7,350	7,002	6,559	6,501
○ Impairment Only	2	0	10	1
○ Fatalities	50	35	35	47
• Cases Referred to Investigator	4,793	4,906	6,179	6,435
• Cases Brought Into Compliance	2,262	2,261	2,653	2,667
REHABILITATION				
• Cases Rehabilitated, Returned to Work as a Result of Division Services	1,441	1,391	1,405	1,439
CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION				
• Crime Victims Claims Filed	1,543	1,706	1,757	1,912
• Decisions Made	1,395	1,278	1,390	1,389
○ Awards	1,179	1,052	1,115	1,096
○ Denials	216	225	275	293
• Crime Victims Compensation Paid	1,874,462	1,903,100	2,153,986	2,241,110
ADJUDICATION				
• Workers' Compensation Complaints Filed	1,181	1,225	1,222	1,248
• Workers' Compensation Hearings Held	111	123	123	113
• Mediations Held	264	325	469	486
• Successful Mediations	281	418	633	851
• Unemployment Decisions Issued (Includes Reconsiderations)	581	621	703	664

Performance Highlights

1. The Compliance Department of the Industrial Commission continued its strong efforts in ensuring Idaho employers obtain the appropriate workers' compensation insurance. Compliance Investigators handled 5,400 cases, which was an increase of 10% over the prior fiscal year. Further, penalty collections to the Compliance Department were increased by 37%.
2. The Crime Victims' Compensation Program successfully put through legislation to increase the funeral benefit level from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00, and expanded eligibility criteria to allow more victims access to family assistance benefits. This is the first benefit increase since the family assistance benefits were added in 1991.
3. The number of mediations increased by 21% over the previous fiscal year with an all time high percentage of full resolution of 91%.
4. Despite the increasing complexity of workers' compensation claims and the inherent difficulty in resolving these matters, the Adjudication Division and Commissioners continued to meet their goal of issuing decisions within 90 days from being submitted.
5. The Crime Victims recovery efforts exceeded \$466,000.00 for FY 2005. This is a 20% increase over the prior fiscal year's collections.
6. The Fiscal Section completed 15 self-insured employer premium tax audits, which netted the Commission approximately \$65,000 in additional premium tax.
7. The Benefits Administration Bureau developed an Employer Education and Evaluation program, which they incorporated into their surety audits. The program advises employers of possible continuing liability due to unreported workers' compensation claims and ensures that the proper authorized in-state adjusting professionals handle claims.
8. Compliance staff worked with the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor and the State Tax Commission on enhancements to the on-line Idaho Business Registration System. The project received the outstanding IT Achievement Award in Digital Government Applications by Information Technology Resource Management Council.
9. In conjunction with the Rehabilitation Division, the Benefits Administration Bureau conducted six presentations encompassing 72 individual medical providers throughout the state. The presentations were designed to familiarize medical providers with the particular needs of the Idaho workers' compensation system, and therefore facilitate a smoother flow of pertinent information.

For More Information Contact

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